

Assisting Constituents in the 8th Congressional District

William Pascrell, Jr.

Conservation Technical Assistance

Application for RC&D Program

NRCS staff assisted the Urban Conservation Action Partnership (UCAP) Board of Directors in preparation of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) application for Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Passaic counties. The region is the last area in New Jersey to seek RC&D Council status. Approval by the Secretary of Agriculture would increase NRCS assistance in areas such as community development, urban-rural interface, greenway and open space preservation, urban natural resource conservation, and outreach to the residents, who number more than 2 million, in the region.

Paterson Park Receives Technical Assistance

Conservationists from NRCS provided technical assistance to the New Jersey Development Corporation East Side Park community garden in Paterson. The community garden is used for educational workshops highlighting the benefits of establishing gardens for pleasure as well as for fresh vegetables and fruits. NRCS provided information on how to attract butterflies, birds, and other wildlife to the garden.

Conservation Education and Outreach

All members of the New Jersey Conservation Partnership are actively engaged in public education and outreach. Conservation education and direct assistance to the public are ongoing priorities in your Congressional District and throughout the state.

Soil Survey Program

Essex County Soil Survey Being Digitized

NRCS soil scientists have completed another 3,000 acres of mapping in Essex County to bring the total to 83,000 acres in just three years. This Progressive Soil Survey, done in cooperation with the Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District, State Soil Conservation Committee, and Essex County government, was completed in September 2001. With \$125,000 in funding provided by the New Jersey Legislature, the survey will be published both in hard print and in a digital format for access over the Internet. Soil surveys provide information on soil characteristics and capabilities to help people better understand soils and their use.

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Soil Erosion Control

Soil Erosion and Stormwater Control Provided in Developing Areas

The NJ Conservation Partnership helps growing communities protect their soil resources from erosion. Through the State Soil Conservation Committee's erosion and sediment control regulatory program, the Soil Conservation Districts serving District 8 review and certify proposed development plans for soil erosion control before and after construction. They also review plans for stormwater control and issue permits. Local inspectors check compliance to ensure natural resource conservation on development sites.

For more information about these and other conservation issues in the 8th District, contact the Hudson-Essex-Passaic SCD: (973) 364-0786 or NRCS Morris Plains UCAP Service Center: (973) 538-1552. State level contacts are the SSCC: (609) 292-5540; NJACD: (973) 398-2511; NRCS: (732) 246-1171.